

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1350

Recognizing June 20, 2010, as World Refugee Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2010

Ms. WATSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing June 20, 2010, as World Refugee Day.

Whereas World Refugee Day was first observed on June 20, 2001;

Whereas tens of thousands of people around the world take time to recognize the challenges and applaud the contributions of forcibly displaced persons throughout the world;

Whereas the annual commemoration of World Refugee Day is marked by a variety of events in more than 100 countries, involving government officials, humanitarian workers and volunteers, celebrities, and the forcibly displaced;

Whereas refugees are people who have been forced to flee their countries due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their political opinions, religious beliefs, race, nationality, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas internally displaced persons are those who have fled their homes or been uprooted but remain within the borders of their country;

Whereas of the 42,000,000 displaced persons worldwide, the United Nations Refugee Agency assists over 25,000,000, including 10,000,000 refugees and more than 14,000,000 internally displaced persons;

Whereas these vulnerable individuals rely on the United States, other governments, the United Nations, and numerous nongovernmental relief agencies for the protection of their basic human rights;

Whereas Somali refugees have lived in camps in Kenya since the early 1990s;

Whereas Burmese refugees have lived in camps inside Thailand since the mid-1980s;

Whereas decades of violence in Afghanistan have produced almost 3,000,000 refugees;

Whereas 3,000,000 internally displaced persons and 400,000 refugees who have fled instability in Colombia currently constitute the largest known displacement population in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas more than 4,000,000 Iraqis are displaced within their country and in the region, including Chaldeans and other minorities;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced by conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas ongoing conflict and violence in Sudan have forced more than 1,000,000 people to become internally displaced within Sudan and another 250,000 to flee to Chad;

Whereas some 150,000 Sudanese have sought protection in other countries around the world;

Whereas 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980, the cornerstone of the United States' system of refugee protection and assistance;

Whereas the United States continues to be the single largest refugee resettlement country in the world; and

Whereas the United States is the largest single donor to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) reaffirms the commitment of the United
3 States to promote the safety, health, and well-being
4 of the millions of refugees who flee war, famine, per-
5 secution, and torture in search of peace, nourish-
6 ment, hope, and freedom;

7 (2) calls on the Department of State to con-
8 tinue to support the efforts of the United Nations
9 High Commissioner for Refugees and to advance the
10 work of nongovernmental organizations, especially
11 those that also have expertise in resettlement, to
12 protect refugees;

13 (3) calls on the United States Government to
14 continue to strengthen its leadership role in the
15 international community in response to those who
16 have been displaced, including the most vulnerable
17 populations who endure sexual violence, human traf-

1 ficking, forced conscription, genocide, and exploi-
2 tation;

3 (4) commends those who have risked their lives
4 working individually and for the multitude of non-
5 governmental organizations, along with the United
6 Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who have
7 provided life-saving assistance and helped protect
8 those displaced by conflict around the world; and

9 (5) reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day
10 and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the
11 millions of refugees who live without material, social,
12 or legal protections.

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